

Ewes Burns Supper gets season off to a rousing start

SEE PAGE 3



Helen in seventh heaven on trip to Caribbean

SEE PAGES 8 & 9



Eskdale & Liddesdale Advertiser

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Canonbie Nursery receives second-highest rating possible

Staff, parents, pupils and commitment to improvement all praised by the Care Inspectorate

Staff and pupils at Canonbie Nursery are celebrating after achieving an outstanding result in a recent unannounced inspection by the Care Inspectorate.

The nursery was awarded the second-highest possible rating – “Very Good” – across key areas including leadership, how children play and learn, and how children are supported to achieve.

This recognition places Canonbie Nursery among the top-performing early years settings in Scotland, where only around 20% of nurseries achieve a “Very Good” rating in multiple categories.

Following the publication of the report, Headteacher Patrick Callaghan said:

“We are absolutely delighted

with this result. I want to thank our dedicated staff for their hard work and resilience in navigating changes to staffing, policies, and procedures over recent years. I also want to thank parents for their incredible feedback and partnership – your involvement is a huge part of our success.”

Highlights from the Inspection

- **Nurturing Environment:** Children were cared for in a warm, respectful setting that offered a wide range of opportunities to learn and develop their interests.

- **Happy and Engaged Learners:** Inspectors observed children who were confident, actively engaged, and having fun while learning.

- **Emotional Support:** Staff responded to children’s ideas and ensured resources were available to extend learning, supporting emotional development.

- **Strong Family Partnerships:** Parents praised communication and support, valuing the close relationships staff have with their children.

- **Commitment to Improvement:** Management and staff demonstrated a strong focus on continuous improvement, with robust self-evaluation and quality assurance processes in place.

Canonbie Nursery currently supports 20 children and employs four staff members, all committed to providing the highest standards of care and education.



Mhairi Porteous, Abbie Johnstone, Patrick Callaghan, Claire Reynolds and Luke Tolson (Kayeigh Cartner missing from photo) with the pupils of Canonbie’s ‘VERY GOOD’ Nursery

Newcastleton Early Learning Centre have also received a prestigious STEM award

See Page 10

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Family Announcements

Deaths

SCOTT, Harriet (Hetty)

Peacefully at the Grove Care Home, Elgin on Monday January 5th 2026, Harriet (Hetty) Scott aged 92 years, beloved wife of the late Robbie Scott. Cherished Mum of Karen, Stuart, and Ewan. Dear mother-in-law to Grant and Joanne. Much loved Nana of Claire, Laura, Joseph, Rosa, Elliot, Esme, Callan, Iris, and Robin. Formerly of Eskdail Street, Langholm. Sadly missed and forever in our hearts. Cremated privately.

Thanks for Sympathy

EDGAR, Tommy

The family of Tommy Edgar would like to thank everyone for their kindness and support during this difficult time; it will never be forgotten. They would also like to thank Shaun Turnbull and Jean Martindale for their valuable services. £754 was collected on Tommy's behalf and will be divided between Friends of the Thomas Hope, Scottish Air Ambulance and CFM Cash For Kids...you did him proud!

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-  The Ainslie Charitable Trust
- The BGS Cayzer Charitable Trust
- Crossdykes Community Benefits Ltd, administered by Foundation Scotland
- Dumfriesshire East Community Benefit Group
- The John Hammond Charitable Trust
- The Stevenson Trust

Church Notices

ESKDALE &
LIDDESDALE
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linked with
CANONBIE
United Parish
Church

Welcome to worship
led by

Rev Morag Crossan
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CANONBIE 9.30am
LIDDESDALE 11am

Worship Group
led services: -
LANGHOLM 10am

Contact us for transport
to/from the
Langholm service
Tel. 07989168299

Rev Morag Crossan
Tel: 07861 736071
or email
mccrossan@
churchofscotland.org.uk

share the news
of any...

- engagements
- marriages
- births
- christenings
- birthdays
- anniversaries
- congratulations

Eskdale & Liddesdale Advertiser

Contact us at the E&L: Office 013873 80012
Editor Alan Weatherstone Features Editor Gilly Fraser
All correspondence to: newsdesk@eladvertiser.co.uk

John witnesses rare optical phenomena



This is an example of John's green flash, witnessed over the ocean

We had a visit from avid E&L reader, John Armstrong, this week to tell us of his strange encounter.

As is his wont, John was walking on Meikleholm and Timpen at sunrise when he witnessed a vivid green flash along the horizon just as the sun was lifting.

John felt that he should tell us in the E&L office and see if we knew what the devil it was!

Of course, we had to investigate:

"The green flash is a rare optical phenomenon that occurs just before sunrise or just after sunset, caused

by atmospheric refraction separating sunlight into colors—briefly revealing green at the sun's edge. It typically lasts only 1–2 seconds and is best seen over a clear, unobstructed horizon like the ocean.

Atmospheric Refraction

As sunlight passes through Earth's atmosphere, it bends (refracts). Shorter wavelengths (blue and green) bend more than longer ones (red and orange). The atmosphere acts like a prism, separating sunlight into its component colours."

This is quite a rare occurrence and John's been in the right place at the right time

Bruce and Bletchley Park

Langholm resident Bruce McCartney is giving a talk at Wester Kirk Library on Sunday 18th January at 3pm.

Following his recent appearance at Melrose in the Borders Book Festival, Bruce will share the story about the coincidences that led to his most recent book 'Border Radio Pioneers and World War 2.'

The book gives a fascinating insight into how our area helped Bletchley Park, the top secret home of the WW2 code breakers during the war. Email westerkirklibrary@gmail.com to reserve a seat.

More heights for Hari

Congratulations to Hari Budha Magar MBE who has become the first double above-knee amputee to summit the highest peaks on all seven continents! Hari visited Langholm Academy in June last year and gave an amazing talk to the pupils about defying the odds and conquering your dreams.

This week, Hari summited the highest mountain on Antarctica, Mount Vinson (4,892m), battling brutal -25°C temperatures, fierce Antarctic winds, treacherous ice fields and a gruelling three-day ascent. An amazing achievement.

Murtholm land WILL be sold for 'residential development'

Following our brief report that Loreburn Housing Association was putting the land at Murtholm up for sale (E&L 11/12/2025), we were asked a number of times if that land would be sold solely for housing as it was originally intended.

We passed the question on to Councillor Male and he in turn posed it to Loreburn CEO, Kirsteen McGinn. Cllr Male received a reply this week:

"Thank you for your response. I can confirm that the site will indeed be

sold for residential development. While the planning for the site has lapsed, we will wait to see how things progress. Additionally, we are selling a very small part of the site separately which could potentially be used for agricultural purposes."

There will doubtless be further questions regarding the future of the Murtholm development, but the E&L will keep an eye on things and report back to its readers with any future developments.

Don't hold your breath!



GRAND DESIGNS: So much for that idea!

Fun for all ages at Big Burns Supper



Big Burns Supper 2026 kicks off in Dumfries on 15th January with family events, comedy and cabaret, workshops and a dazzling light installation spanning from the Burns Mausoleum to Greyfriars Kirk in Dumfries.

Big Burns Supper is the biggest Burns Night celebration on the planet, based in the town of Dumfries – final resting place of the national bard and a living museum to his memory. His favourite pub, The Globe is within walking distance of the town centre, and the farm he built is on the outskirts of the town.

But Burns Night reaches beyond borders. From heritage communities to Scottish expats, Burns Suppers take

place around the world. Be a part of our global moment by joining us for Burns Night Live, a free online event packed with Scottish talent. Burns Night Live is a 90 minute event, starting at 7pm GMT 25 January. The recording will be available afterwards, so all time zones can join in for Burns Night. It will be broadcast on YouTube and Facebook. This year huge lanterns made in Langholm by families working with the Langholm Initiative staff will feature in the Dumfries Carnival event. There will also be food and drink on offer and five days of live music and a Taste of Scotland market.

For details see the website <https://bigburnsupper.com> or check out the Facebook page.

Ewes SWI gets Burns off to a great start

Auld heids and young talent make it special



TOP PERFORMERS: Freya McCall, John Innes, Lewis MacKenzie Cox, Tessa Lumley, Billy Young, Joyce Tinlin, Hector Rogerson, Marjorie Pringle and Piper Ricky Henderson

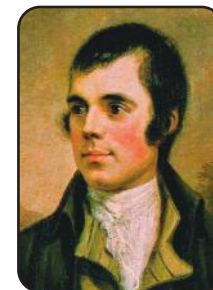
President Tessa Lumley welcomed a good turnout of members and friends to Ewes Hall. The Hall Committee and plumber David Divers had worked well in the preceding days to ensure water and heating was working so that the event could go ahead.

Vice President Marjorie Pringle said The Selkirk Grace and delicious soup was served. The haggis was piped in by Ricky Henderson and carried by Nancy McLure to be addressed by Marjorie. The traditional haggis, neeps and tatties and shepherd's pie were

followed by shortbread, tea and coffee.

John Innes proposed a very original Immortal Memory seeing Robert Burns from the point of view of his social media accounts if he had lived nowadays. Hector Rogerson, aged 11, sang Up in the Morning Early with great confidence and skill and this was followed by a humorous Toast to the Lassies by Lewis MacKenzie Cox. Tam O' Shanter was in the capable hands of Billy Young before Freya McCall gave a spirited reply to The Toast to the Lassies. The final

performer was Joyce Tinlin who gave a beautiful rendition of Ay Waukin O to conclude a wonderful evening. The raffle was drawn and Marjorie gave a very comprehensive vote of thanks to all.



New club for metal detectorists

A new metal detecting club has started up following a meeting held at Westerkirk library in December. The club's first dig will take place on Saturday 31st December at Bentpath.

Mrs Mary Buckley has consented for the club to explore the show field behind the hall.

In order to participate people need to be a member of the Council of Metal Detecting and membership can be accessed through

<https://www.ncmd.co.uk/membership/uk>. Proof of membership covers you for individual liability insurance. The website also gives information about different treasure laws in their detecting advice section. The Club will meet at the library at 10am, weather permitting.

Bridge Results

1, George & Brenda Bullamore, 2, Sandra Ritchie & Anne Hislop, 3, Bob Francombe & George Graham, 4, Lesley McCartney & John Packer, 5, Ton Stothart & Jim Muir, 6 = Derek Scott & Judy Pitchford and Christine Burton & Janet Ivison.

Actor and Distiller, Sam addresses SOSE bash

The success of South of Scotland's businesses and communities was celebrated at a Scottish Parliament reception on Wednesday 7th January. The event saw dozens of inspiring local businesses come together at the South of Scotland Enterprise (SOSE) reception, including Outlander star and Galloway Distillery co-founder Sam Heughan. Mr Heughan spoke at the event, reflecting on growing up in Galloway and now being part of the local business community with the Distillery, which is based in Newton Stewart. The reception also marked the fifth anniversary of SOSE – the region's economic and community development agency which has helped create and safeguard over 10,000 jobs in the region since being launched. The event discussed SOSE's vision for the future of the South, with Deputy First Minister Kate Forbes, SOSE Chair Russel Griggs and



Outlander star Sam Heughan

SOSE Chief Executive Jane Morrison-Ross also speaking. A range of South-based attractions were in attendance, including Trimontium Museum, Robert Burns Ellisland Trust, Galloway Distillery, Barrie Knitwear and Eyemouth Harbour Trust. Russel Griggs, Chair of SOSE, said: "When we launched in April 2020, we made a promise to the people of the South of Scotland that

we would be bold, different, ambitious and would listen. We are proud of the businesses and communities we have in our region, and the support we have provided – from COVID-19 support to creation and safeguarding of jobs to development of entrepreneurship and innovation. We were delighted to celebrate our region's achievements at the Scottish Parliament reception."



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D&G bed-blocking figures alarming



South of Scotland MSP Craig Hoy has commented on figures from Audit Scotland revealing that bed-blocking in Dumfries and Galloway is amongst the worst in Scotland.

Commenting on the latest report, Mr Hoy said: "The alarming levels of delayed discharge across Dumfries and Galloway must be a wake-up call to the council, the health board and the Integration Joint Board (IJB)

— and ultimately the SNP government in Edinburgh.

"They must urgently get a grip and ensure they work collaboratively to reduce delayed discharge and ensure patients are cared for in the most appropriate settings.

"Today's figures also expose the ongoing damage caused by the SNP government's broken promise to eradicate delayed discharge over a decade ago.

"Ministers must now fully and



Craig Hoy MSP

fairly fund councils and rural health boards so they can finally fix this broken system. Unless this happens waiting times at accident and emergency will persist and waiting lists will remain stubbornly high."

Disclosure Scheme for Domestic Abuse



The Disclosure Scheme for Domestic Abuse Scotland (DSDAS) is a scheme that lets members of the public request information about a partner's abusive past. This information can then be shared with someone who might be at risk of domestic abuse. Police Scotland launched DSDAS on 1 October 2015 and since its launch, have received over 35,500 applications and made over 19,500 disclosures.

You can make a DSDAS application if you: • think you might be at risk of domestic abuse • are worried someone you know might be at risk of domestic abuse. They'll only make a disclosure after they've considered all factors. They'll assess the threat carefully, and

decide if they need to share information to prevent a person from experiencing domestic abuse. They may also speak to other agencies to help make sure a disclosure is the right option. If you're making the application on behalf of someone else, they cannot make the disclosure to you. They can only make a disclosure to the person who is at risk to support and help protect them. The police will act immediately if they think you or someone else needs to be protected from harm.

More information about the scheme is available on the Disclosure Scheme for Domestic Abuse Scotland (DSDAS) page on our website. You can also fill out a DSDAS application form on our website.

NSPCC seeks counsellors

The NSPCC is seeking people who might become a Childline counsellor. For anyone looking to give back to their community, volunteering with the NSPCC is a meaningful way to support children and young people across Scotland.

One of the ways to support children is by becoming a Childline counsellor. Childline bases in Aberdeen and Glasgow are always looking for new volunteers to support children and young people through phone and online services. With a child contacting Childline every 45 seconds, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, volunteers play a vital role.

They say that another rewarding opportunity is with NSPCC Schools Service. Volunteers deliver the Speak out, Stay safe workshops in primary schools, helping children understand their right to be safe, recognise the signs of abuse, and know who they can turn to for support. Last year, the programme reached more than 60,000 across Scotland, and in 2026 hopes to reach even more.

Full training is provided, and visits can be arranged around work or family commitments. Every shift is different, and volunteers often say that the enthusiasm and curiosity of the children they meet is what makes the role so special.

If this sounds like something for you, visit the NSPCC website to find out more.

The rolling out of D&G Transport Hubs

Construction is now underway on nine multi-modal transport hubs in Dumfries and Galloway, which will bring new active and sustainable transport options to communities across the region. Located in Sanquhar, Dalbeattie, Whithorn, Stranraer, Gatehouse of Fleet, Castle Douglas, Newton Stewart, Annan and Langholm, each hub will offer practical, low-carbon alternatives to private car travel such as e-bike hire, electric car club vehicles, secure cycle storage, public EV charging points and cycle repair stations. They will also connect with local bus and rail services to support more joined-up journeys, with features including bus waiting areas and real time passenger information screens.

The hubs are being delivered by Dumfries and Galloway Council as part of a programme of transport improvements supported by £13.8 million from UK Government funding and a further £1.8 million from Trans-



port Scotland. They are scheduled to open in late spring 2026. The start of construction by contractor Galliford Try was marked by a launch event on 17 December in Newton Stewart attended by Councillor Stephen Thompson, Leader of Dumfries and Galloway Council, alongside local elected members, including Councillor Tony Berretti, Vice-Chair of the Economy and Infrastructure Committee.

To coincide with the launch, residents are invited to take part in the Moving Stories campaign delivered by the Stove Network. Moving Stories celebrates how

everyday journeys involving walking, wheeling, cycling or taking the bus can connect communities and deliver economic benefits by helping people access employment opportunities and local services, while also improving health and wellbeing. As well as a programme of creative engagement events, an online survey is available to collect personal experiences, to enable people to share their stories. The multi-modal hubs are one of three major transport improvement projects being delivered by Dumfries and Galloway Council through the Levelling Up Fund.

Any award-worthy woods in E&L area?

Scotland's Finest Woods Awards is once again celebrating excellence in woodlands and forestry across the country, with youngsters leading the way. Entries have opened for the Schools and Early Years categories in the 2026 Awards, with a deadline of March 31. Entering is straightforward and can be done via the Scotland's Finest Woods Awards website - www.sfwa.co.uk

Entries for all other categories will open shortly, with a deadline of May 31. In recent years Schools and Early Years winners have had their prizes presented in June in a special day at their school. They also attend the main award ceremony later in the year where the next generation of tree people receiving their trophy has won the hearts of the audience. In 2025, The Alba Trees Early Years' Trophy went to West Johnstone ELCC, in Johnstone, Renfrewshire, and the Crown Estate Scotland Schools' Trophy was awarded to Hardgate Primary School in Haugh of Urr, near



Castle Douglas in Dumfries and Galloway. In addition, Selkirk High School was the Climate Change Champion.

Jean Nairn, Executive Director of Scotland's Finest Woods, said: "Scotland's Finest Woods is all about championing outstanding achievement in woodland management and creation across schools, farms, forestry, community and urban woodlands. Winners enjoy recognition and publicity for their hard work and care of trees and receive a cash prize in addition to the trophies on offer. So, will you enter your project this year and be in with the chance of winning?"

There are 11 competitions at this year's Scotland's Finest Woods Awards covering Urban Forestry, Quality Timber, Farm Woodland, New Native Wood, Community Woodland, Schools and Early Years, and Climate Change. Schools and Early Years entries are open and must be made by 23:59 on Tuesday March 31, 2026. All other entries must be submitted by 23:59 on Sunday May 31, 2026 – the entry process for these will be announced in the coming weeks.

For full details, criteria and entry forms see: www.sfwa.co.uk

The Carbon Removers to get SOSE help with £1b venture

Company aims to develop Dumfries-based carbon capture site

Ambitious plans to create a £1billion company in the South of Scotland have been backed by the region's economic and community development agency. The near-£1million investment by South of Scotland Enterprise (SOSE) in pioneering carbon capture facility The Carbon Removers is kickstarting a fundraising drive which will accelerate the expansion of the business across the UK and Europe.

SOSE's early investment aims to unlock a wider investment round which will continue this expansion and ultimately lead to the South of Scotland business generating an annual revenue of £1billion by 2034/35. The Carbon Removers plans on removing one million tonnes per year by 2030 by expanding

carbon sequestering projects. Headquartered near Dumfries, The Carbon Removers actively capture carbon dioxide from biogas and the whisky industry and are now expanding into Europe.

Founded by brothers Ed and Richard Nimmons, The Carbon Removers are the only UK company granted a storage licence to permanently remove carbon from Denmark and the EU's first CO2 storage facility. SOSE's plans to convert a loan to an equity share in The Carbon Removers, will help the South of Scotland to continue its transition to Net Zero, particularly for the agriculture, whisky and bioenergy sectors based in the region.

It also provides significant business and market growth potential for the region and reinforces the growing rep-



utation of the South of Scotland as the place to do business.

Deputy First Minister Kate Forbes said:

"Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) is of the utmost importance to Scotland's climate and economic tran-

sition to net zero – without it we couldn't reduce emissions from the hardest to abate sectors including chemicals, cement and certain aspects of power generation. It's great to see SOSE supporting a home-grown company leading the charge both

First Minister John Sweeney is shown round The Carbon Removers' site

here and in Europe. This will create further jobs and boost the economy both for the region and across Scotland."

Register for Borders College

There's still an opportunity to register for the Borders College open day which will be held on 28th January at the Galashiels and Newtown St Boswells campuses. Sessions on the open day take place from 1pm – 6pm and cover a wider range of topics. To register go to the website www.borderscollege.ac.uk/penday

Buccleuch says thanks to Tom

Langholm's Buccleuch Centre said farewell to one of its longest-standing volunteers when Tom Stohart took his final bow at the Muckle Toon Panto.

Everyone at the Centre said a special thanks for all the hard work and dedication - Tom has volunteered since 2007.

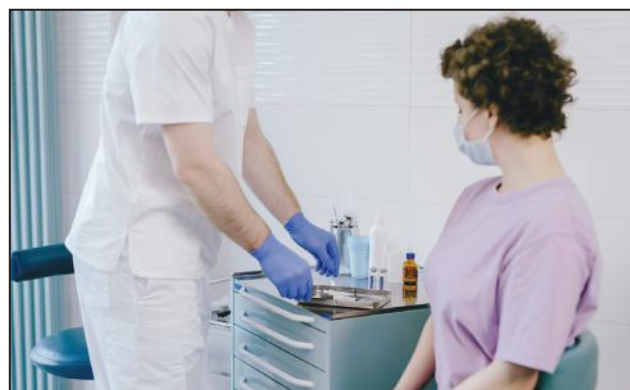
It was sad to say farewell, but everyone looks forward to welcoming Tom as a customer.

Mask rules lifted in all D&G hospitals

Visitors to hospitals in Dumfries and Galloway no longer need to wear masks, as flu and norovirus cases continue to decline across the region.

From last week, staff and visitors are not required to wear masks in wards or clinical areas, though anyone who wishes to continue will be supported. Masks may still be requested when visiting particularly vulnerable patients. Anyone feeling unwell or showing symptoms of flu or other infections should avoid visiting until fully recovered.

NHS Dumfries and Galloway public health consultant Dr Keith Allan stressed that while infection risks have reduced, they have not disappeared. "We're grateful to visitors for their support over the past month. Measures like mask-wearing and restricted visiting helped control infections and protect vulnerable patients," he said. "Please keep following other precautions—wash hands thoroughly and never visit if you're unwell, even with mild symptoms."



Staff and visitors are not required to wear masks in wards or clinical areas

Visiting was limited to essential visits in early December to curb infections, then resumed with masks on 19 December. Vaccination remains a key defense against flu and COVID. Free vaccines are available to eligible people this month, with flu vaccination continuing until March. "If you're eligible, please book your vaccination online or by phone," Dr Allan urged. "It reduces your risk of serious illness and helps prevent transmission."

Most people with mild flu or norovirus symptoms can recover at home with rest, fluids, and over-the-counter remedies. Those concerned or at higher risk should seek advice via NHS Inform, NHS 24 (111), or their GP or pharmacist.

Eligible individuals can book vaccinations at vacs.nhs.scot/csp or by calling 01387 403090. More information is available at <https://www.nhsinform.scot>

Contact John Lamont MP

Member of Parliament for Berwickshire, Roxburgh and Selkirk

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The costs of this publication have been met out of parliamentary resources.

Farming on the Border



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Farming with Gilly Fraser

New Visitor Levy Bill could affect your farm B&B

Holyrood is looking at new legislation which could affect farm businesses operating self-catering or Bed & Breakfast accommodation, and glamping sites.

The new Bill – the Visitor Levy (Amendment) (Scotland) focuses on tourist tax applied to visitors who stay overnight. It gives local authorities greater flexibility in how they both design and apply the levy.

If it's passed, councils would be able to set the levy as a fixed amount, either per person per night or simply per night, and charges could be varied according to location, season or accommodation type.

Tourism is an important element for many farm businesses as part of their diversification income.

Public finance minister Ivan McKee says the amendments are designed to give councils and businesses greater clarity and choice.

"When we introduced the orig-

inal visitor levy legislation, we wanted to empower councils to implement a scheme that was right for their areas and easy to understand for local businesses," he said.

Options

Councils won't be forced to introduce a visitor levy but will have a greater range of options available to them.

The proposals have been welcomed by parts of the accommodation sector, including businesses operating in rural and farming communities.

However, they haven't pleased all.

Dumfriesshire MP David Mundell says the south of Scotland wants to attract more visitors, not drive them away.

"Tourists shouldn't be penalised for choosing to come to visit Dumfries and Galloway," he said. "The local council must listen to businesses and stop this consultation."

Farmers offered extreme weather financial support

RSABI is providing help from its Snow Impact Fund

Farming families in Scotland who have been severely hit by extreme weather this winter are being encouraged to apply to leading charity RSABI for financial support.

The charity has set up a special Snow Impact Fund to help those most affected by the conditions. Payments of up to £1,000 are available per farming family business.

People applying will have to provide details and evidence of damage and losses and funding will be provided at the charity's discretion.

RSABI Chief Executive Carol McLaren says the charity is aware of many farmers who have sustained damage, particularly to farm buildings.

"The start of 2026 has been



RSABI Chief Executive Carol McLaren

a very trying time for farming families in the worst-hit parts of Scotland as they battle to feed and look after livestock in very challenging conditions, as well as de-

frosting water troughs and pipes in plummeting temperatures," she said.

"Remarkably they have managed to do all this and also make a truly outstand-

ing contribution to communities around the country, keeping roads open and assisting vulnerable people in rural areas. There are numerous examples of exemplary support and kindness being provided without hesitation."

Ms McLaren said RSABI had been very touched by offers of donations from the public and from farmers in less affected parts of Scotland and had set up the Snow Impact Appeal as a result.

This will offer the opportunity to donate to RSABI to support the work it is doing to assist farmers and crofters affected by the snow and also its ongoing wider remit in support of Scottish agriculture.

Loneliness charity raises £92,000

A charity co-founded by a Dumfries and Galloway-based company has raised the equivalent of £92,000 for people suffering poverty and loneliness.

Founded in 2023, the Galloway Gathering Project brings together Galloway Cheddar and FareShare, the UK's leading food redistribution charity.

Last year the project travelled all over Scotland to raise both money and awareness of the work being carried out. The tour featured live music by acclaimed musician Anna Massie as well as cookery displays by Scotland's national Chef Gary MacLean who acts as ambassador for the charity.

Anna said the Tour combined some of the very best things in life - company, craic and cheese.

"I'm so happy to be involved in this project which brought folk together in their communities and let them share food and music with their friends and neighbours," she said.

Heloise Le Norcy-Trott, marketing director at parent firm Lactalis UK & Ireland, said that seeing the Galloway Gathering Project thrive for a third consecutive year was incredibly rewarding.

"It's grown beyond our expectations, and we're proud of its impact," she said. "This initiative brings communities together through food, music, and shared experiences. We're especially grateful to those who donated to FareShare, a charity doing



Musician Anna Massie supported the Galloway Gathering Project

vital work across the UK.

"With the tour, we hope to connect with even more communities across Scotland, creating memorable moments through music, shared experiences and great food.

"Galloway Cheddar has long been rooted in Scotland's communities, and the tour was a natural extension of that."

Key priorities sought

The National Sheep Association has written to Scotland's Minister for Agriculture, Jim Fairlie, calling for the Government to set out its key priorities for sheep farming and rural committees.

NSA Scotland say continued ring-fenced multi-year farm support is critically important and that guaranteed, long-term support is essential to underpin business confidence as agriculture continues through a period of change.

The body welcomes the continuation of enhanced shepherding initiatives as part of the scheme but warns that labour shortages and the long-term cost-effectiveness of the scheme affect its long-term viability.

In the letter NSA highlights the ongoing importance of Less Favoured Area (LFA) and Scottish Upland Sheep Support Scheme (SUSSS) payments in maintaining sheep farming across marginal land. It also calls for greater transparency around the



Minister for Agriculture Jim Fairlie

£21 million Farming and Food Infrastructure Scheme (FFIS), stating that while the 100% grant rate may have been generous, it proved transformative for some businesses and generated valuable learning for future schemes.

NSA Scotland Chair Peter Myles says it's important to remember that the Scottish national flock continues to contract due to economic pressures, land use change and predation.

"Projections suggest UK sheep meat production could fall short

by 37,000 tonnes by 2030 if current trends continue," he said.

"With markets currently strong, NSA Scotland believes now is the time to invest, grow domestic consumption and exports, and increase, rather than reduce, sheep numbers, particularly on marginal land where grazing remains the most effective land use.

"We are keen to work constructively with government to ensure the sector remains a cornerstone of Scotland's prosperity."

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Tropical paradise trip for E&L gardening guru

HELEN KNOWLES, was in seventh heaven among the abundant flora of Grenada, the Spice Island

◆ ARRIVAL ON THE SPICE ISLE

“The frogs begin their incessant calls every evening as the light fades.”

Grenada, known as the Spice Isle due to its once abundant Nutmeg plantations, is a tropical island in the eastern Caribbean and where I had the great fortune to spend two weeks last November.

Arriving after dark I was overwhelmed by the tropical heat and noise of the frogs who begin their incessant calls every evening as the light fades, keeping up the chorus trip all night long and only ceasing as the sky begins to lighten again at dawn. They are so loud that they even drown out the Cicadas, which is quite a feat.



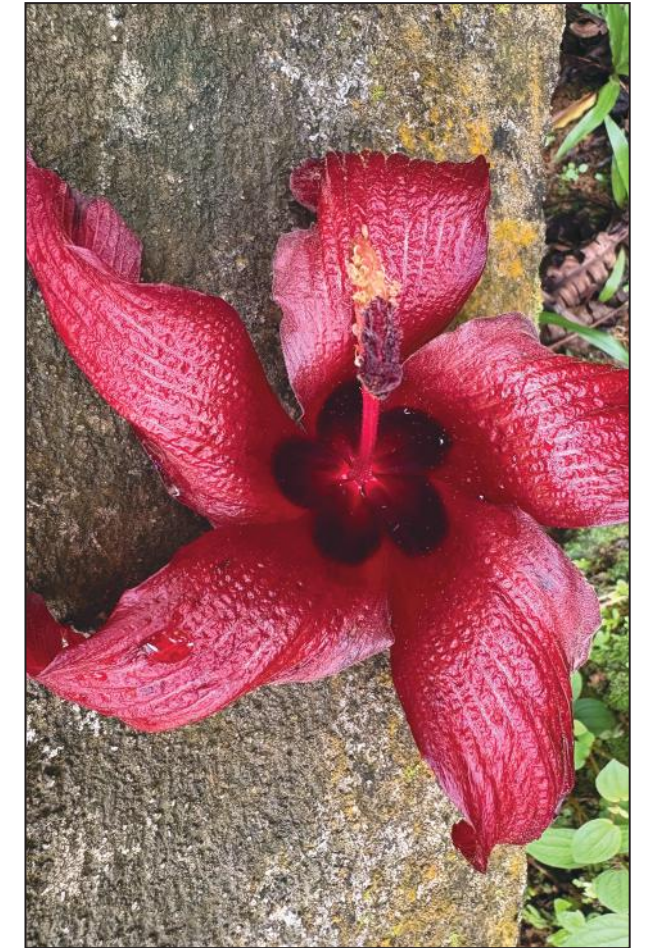
Clitoria ternatea (Butterfly Pea)



Grenada, known as the Spice Isle due to its once abundant Nutmeg plantations, is a tropical island in the eastern Caribbean



Delonix regia (Flamboyant)



Hibiscus elatus (Blue Mahoe)



Orchid 'planted' on palm tree



Alpinia purpurata (Red Ginger)

◆ GARDENS, NURSERIES & FOREST TRAILS

“A veritable walking encyclopedia of tropical plant knowledge.”

It was a joy to visit the St Rose Nursery; Grenada's oldest having been established in 1972 by John Criswick. It's not the easiest place to find but was well worth the effort to get there as the range of plants grown is exceptional and there is a wonderful tropical jungle garden to explore too. Even better, I got to meet John himself; a veritable walking encyclopedia of tropical plant knowledge and I could have happily spent a whole day discussing his collection with him.

Grand Etang National Park lies at the heart of the island, up in the steep hills that are shrouded with trees, tropical jungle lower down and cloud forest near the summits. This is somewhere else that I could have returned to time and time again as there were so many wonderful plants and countless trails to explore and not enough time, but I did manage a visit to the Annandale Falls, which were very refreshing!



Plumeria rubra (Frangipani)

◆ A BOTANICAL TREASURE TROVE

“By daylight I realised I was in a tropical paradise.”

By daylight I realised I was in a tropical paradise and that my plant knowledge was going to be put to the test. There were plants that I recognised; many of which would be familiar to us all as houseplants in the UK as well as plants that I have seen on my travels to Asia but there were also a great number that were completely new to me. Bougainvillea, Hibiscus, Brugmansia and Lantana all seemed to be very popular garden plants, and it soon became clear that plants have been introduced to Grenada from all over the world, with many of them making themselves very much at home, escaping from gardens and naturalising.

“The beautiful blue Butterfly Pea was probably my favourite of all.”

With so many wonderful plants it's hard to choose favourites but here's a few of them: Flamboyant (*Delonix regia*) is a tree with eye-catching brilliant orange flowers and really lives up to its name, *Tabebuia* sp. was soon nick-named the Hummingbird tree as every morning at breakfast I watched the tiny Antillean crested

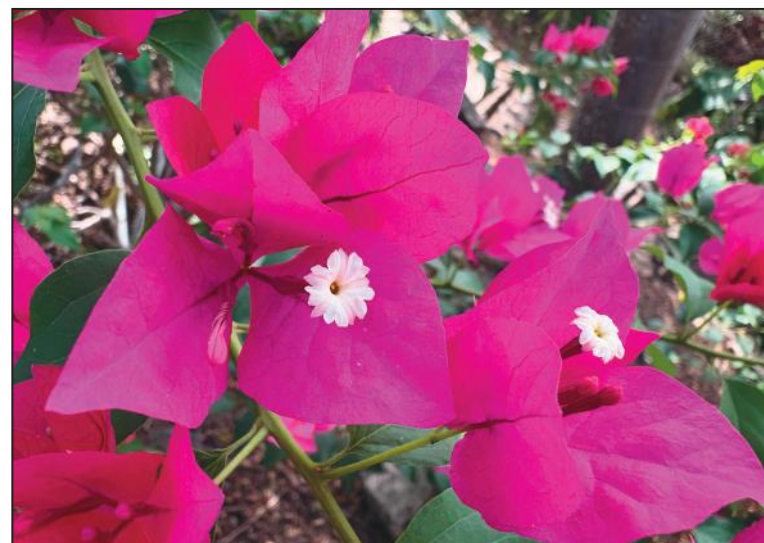
hummingbirds feeding on the nectar rich and highly fragrant flowers. These hummingbirds are common on the island and it was a delight to see them very close up as they visited flowers, but they were always too quick for me to get a photo!

Crinum x amabile was stunning and huge with highly fragrant flowers which rivalled the perfume of Frangipani (*Plumeria rubra*). I love Orchids of any kind, and many have been introduced and 'planted' on trees, but it was fantastic to see the terrestrial Phillippine Ground Orchid (*Spathoglottis plicata*). The weird and wonderful flowers of Heliconia or Lobster Claw and Red Ginger (*Alpinia purpurata*) looked almost unreal and carved out of wax, but the beautiful blue Butterfly Pea (*Clitoria ternata*) was probably my favourite of all.

There was one plant though that reminded me of how little I still know when I found a large flower, the size of a lily, lying on the ground and with no obvious source nearby I looked up into a very large tree and there spotted more of these huge blooms. I had no idea what it could be but eventually identified it as Blue Mahoe (*Hibiscus elatus*), so very different to the shrubs that most of us know as Hibiscus.



Crinum x amabile



Bougainvillea



Orchid

◆ COCOA HERITAGE, NUTMEG LOSS and FINAL REFLECTIONS

“The whole process has changed very little since the 17th century.”

Nutmeg was once a hugely important crop on Grenada, but Hurricanes and Emily devastated the island between 2002 and 2004, destroying more than 90% of the island's nutmeg trees (555,000). Given that it can take 20 years for trees to reach full production and they are shallow rooted so can easily be uprooted by wind it's not surprising that many estates have diversified and now grow other crops.

The Belmont Estate however has always been known for its Cocoa and in an age when so much has become mechanised and automated it was refreshing to visit a business whose owner has made a conscious decision to prioritise keeping local people in employment. The whole process of harvesting the cocoa pods, fermenting, drying and then polishing the beans before turning them into the most delicious chocolate has changed very little since the 17th century, preserving vital jobs on the island.

The 'factory' where the chocolate is made is however suitably hi-tech, modern, spotlessly clean and air-conditioned. After a few hours in 30+ degree heat a chance to cool off was very welcome and there was the added benefit of being able to sample some of the chocolate too but for me the highlight of my visit there was seeing the African Tulip tree (*Spathodea campanulata*) with its striking orange flowers.

Will that be my only visit to Grenada? I hope not as there is still so much more to explore and wonderful plants to enjoy.

By Gilly Fraser

Copshaw's youngest pupils: "It's never too early to learn"

Primary School's Early Learning Centre wins top STEM award

The three R's of reading, (w)riting and 'rithmetic were once considered the essential tools of education but the academic net has spread quite a bit further to include science, technology, engineering and mathematics – collectively known as STEM.

And those subjects aren't just for the older pupils – as Newcastleton has proved, it's never too early to learn.

The Primary School's Early Learning Centre has not only excelled in teaching STEM subjects – it's been recognised with a top award for doing so.

Developed by Education Scotland, the STEM Nation Award is based on five key areas, namely leadership, family and community learning, employability and partnership working, curriculum and learner pathways, and equity and equality.

Newcastleton scored top marks across the board for its passionate approach to STEM learning and for using creative strategies to involve families and the wider community.

Validators praised the growing confidence and engagement from children and practitioners, creating a culture of shared STEM planning and exploration. They also found staff to be enthusiastic about future developments, continuing to build partnerships with STEM ambassadors and other settings while engaging in ongoing professional learning.

Acting Headteacher Mrs Fiona Irvine says the school is absolutely delighted to have won the STEM Nation Award in all five categories.

"Being a small rural village ELC and school it is such a sense of achievement to have been recognised for this national award. It is testament



SCIENCE IS EVERYWHERE: As the young students experiment outside

to the hard work, enthusiasm and commitment of our wonderful ELC staff and children.

"The staff, children and families love engaging in a wide variety of STEM learning experiences in the setting, outdoors, within the local community and further afield," she said.

"We want the children to ask questions, explore, investigate and learn through open ended and real-life experiences. We want them to discover things for themselves and have enquiring minds. We want them to be active and engaged in their learning with support of ELC, school, their families and the community.

"We are currently further developing STEM learning across the whole school making use of a wide range of resources and our amazing outdoor areas as well as the whole community and further afield. Children in ELC have the opportunity for STEM learning and play experiences

everyday both inside and outdoors and are keen to ask questions and explore."

The school actively encourages children-led learning, and this was demonstrated last week when they found their outdoor pans filled with water, leaves and other items which were frozen solid. They worked together to try to break the ice with different implements and in different ways. They also investigated how quickly the ice melted and looked at different colours of ice. This learning was then extended into imaginative play by creating stories including toy polar animals.

Mrs Irvine says winning the award will inspire the staff and children to learn even more.

"This drives our motivation to continue to support the children's curiosity to learn even more in science, technology, engineering and mathematics within the ELC and across the whole school."

The school's Early Learning Officer Hayley Pearson says the STEM journey is an exciting one.

"We are thrilled to receive this award and have been told we are the first in the Scottish Borders to achieve it," she said.

"It has been an incredible journey, watching the children's confidence flourish as they explore and discover the amazing world around them. We are excited to continue our STEM journey alongside our children, families and community."

Graeme Logan, interim chief executive of Education Scotland, says the school has set a great example.

"I am delighted that Newcastleton ELC is providing such rich, engaging and varied STEM experiences for their learners and hope that this success will encourage even more of Scotland's schools and settings to apply for the STEM Nation Award."



Newcastleton's Early Learning Centre pupils are eager to learn all about Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics

Eskdale Pony Club Annual Awards night

Gilly Fraser reports on riding club's special event

Eskdale Pony Club's Awards Night was made even more special than usual this year with a message specially recorded for them by Olympic Eventer Pippa Funnell.

"I would like to congratulate all of you who have won awards but also wanted to say well done to each and every one of you for being members of the Pony Club," she said.

"I spent many years really enjoying the Pony Club and made some really great friends but above all I learned so much about how to look after ponies and horses.

"It was such fun even though it was many years ago. So remember, dream big and of course look after your ponies and horses. That is the priority."

It was a real feather in the cap for the club, which always goes above and beyond for all its members and supporters.

The Club had a tremendous year in 2025 with many of its riders winning rosettes, sashes and trophies. But at the Awards night, the Club also chose to highlight the riders, parents, supporters and friends who make the branch such a special place.

The very long list of awards included the following:

The Pony Clubber of the

Year award went to Gracie Robertson for outstanding commitment and dedication.

Most Improved Rider was won by Robbie Gillan for the outstanding progress he made last year. Robbie also won the Members' Member Award for the kindness, fun and support he brings to the club.

Newcomer

Best Newcomer went to Freya Thompson, who has settled into Pony Club brilliantly.

Libby Hall won the Cheerleader Award because she's always cheering people on and spreads positivity at all times.

Ryan Gillan was named top Member's Parent, for his constant support and encouragement.

The unwavering commitment, support and generosity of the Cooper Family won them the Dedication Award.

Alex Garven lifted the Friend of Eskdale Pony Club title for outstanding contribution throughout the year.

For always being there to help and stepping in when ever needed, Graham Robertson was named Behind the Scenes Hero.

Matthew Wilkinson won the Community Support Award for always supporting and including the Eskdale branch with the Jed Hunt.



A fab night was had by all

Ella Cooper was named Unsung Hero because she does so much without recognition

Supporters

The Best Non-Ridden Supporter award went to Coen Borthwick because the club agreed it just wouldn't be the same without him.

She's first to volunteer, last to leave and never moans – and Sophie Millar has won the Always Helping Award.

Sometimes ponies and riders read from different scripts – and the Pony Knows Best

Award went to Olivia Monks because she may have had a plan, but the pony had a better one.

Islay O'Connor won the Whatever the Weather Award for always smiling, regardless of the weather.

The Heart of Eskdale Pony Club went to Jessica Telford for being kind, supportive and always looking out for everyone.

Horsemanship

Millie Young lifted the Horsemanship Award for maintaining her cool and al-

ways putting her horse's welfare first, even in challenging situations.

The list also included awards for Mollie Phillips, Caden Borthwick, Bridget Carlile, Imogen Carlile, Elliot Cavers, Katie Cooper, Alice Douglas, Amelia Douglas, Liberty and Rory Fawcett-Krawczyk, Georgie Gillan, Eden Hepburn, McKenna Maxwell, Lexie Robertson, Stuart Irvine, Danielle Gillan, Rosa O'Connor, Ella Basnett, Lily Richardson, Emmie Irvine and Emily McTaggart.



At the Awards night, the Club also chose to highlight the riders, parents, supporters and friends who make the branch such a special place.



The event was made extra special with a video message from Olympic Eventer Pippa Middleton

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

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NHS24111

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07902 718985
Canonbie United Parish church
Liddesdale Parish church
Session Clerk...013873 25255

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Saturday 9am-5pm.

Lang Syne in Eskdale

...David J. Beattie with mair kirk stoories

Looking back...

...Continued

The house on the Drove Road, near the head of Well Close, facing down toward the High Street, was the session-home of the kirk, and was kept, during Mr Shaw's time, by an old woman named Sibby Ward. Here, on Sundays, the minister would put on his gown and bands and walk up the pathway behind the session-house to the kirk.

The Auld Kirk was last used for public worship about the year 1845. After that date the sacred building was dismantled, and I suppose that many of the stones and other materials would be used, as seemed to be the practice in those days, in the construction or repair of property in the vicinity of the Kirk, until only the derelict north gable was left standing, a silent relic of the past.

It was due to the beneficence of the late Alexander Scott of Erkinholme, that the ruins of the Auld Kirk, which were showing signs of collapse about 50 years ago, were strengthened and preserved. The bell, which over a century ago pealed out its summons calling the parishioners to worship, and in later years sounded the alarm when fire broke out in the town, hung in doleful silence until the ancient belfry fell a victim to the violent gale in February 1948. The bell, which was unbroken in the fall, bears the impress of an Edinburgh

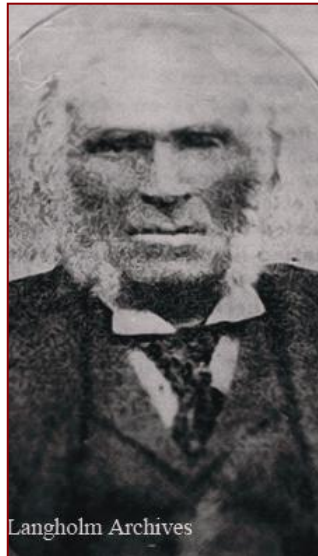
foundry and is dated 1795.

The recent centenary of the opening of the present Parish Church on the Eldingholm, at the junction of the Esk and Wauchope Waters in the year 1846, unconsciously brought into action those mystic cells treasured in memory's storehouse, which have remained dormant for many a long year. One cannot refrain, at this point, from stepping forward out of one century into another for a brief space, even at the risk of momentarily distorting the sequence of events.

'Snibbed'

Pictures of bygone days, delineating the homey every day happenings within the sacred precincts of God's House, pass before our vision, and we live again in the days which seemed ever bright. My earliest recollection of kirk-going goes back to the middle 'eighties, when I was so small that I could not see over the book-ledge. The pews were severely plain and high-sided, and once the door was securely snibbed one had the feeling of being in a prison cell with a kindly old grannie as wardress.

Even at this distant date I rarely inhale the passing scent of a mint-drop, but I fancy I see the old body's hand quietly disappear into the depths of a mysterious pocket in the back regions of her black pleated skirt in search of a

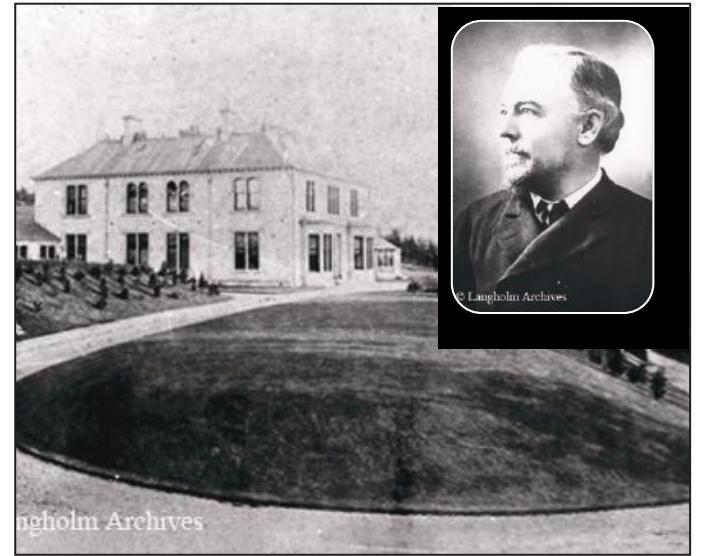


Precentor of Langholm Auld Kirk
Simon Irving

sweetie, which invariably proved an effectual bribe to secure our good behaviour during the sermon. The pew referred to is still used by the same family, as are also the two adjoining ones, and I believe this seating accommodation has been in their possession since the opening of the kirk 100 years ago.

Rev. William B. Shaw

At that time, when I first climbed the stone stairs to reach our family pew at the back of the gallery, the kirk building would be little more than 40 years old,



Alexander Scott of Erkinholme paid to have the ruins of the auld kirk strengthened

and there were still those present who had worshipped in the Auld Kirk up the brae. The Rev William B Shaw, who died in 1856 at the age of 81, was the new kirk's first minister, after 30 years' ministry in the Auld Kirk.

An outstanding event in the life of the kirk was the installation of the present pipe organ in the early nineties. Previous to this, the only instrument used during the service was Simon Irving's tuning fork, when he rose from his seat of dignity and honour beneath the pulpit, to lead the congregation in praise. For Simon was the worthy precentor

of the Parish Kirk, a position of no small importance in those days. That our staid precentor was no 'prentice hand at raising the praise, is revealed by the fact that when the present parish church was in course of erection, Simon was then singing in the choir at the old kirk up the Wynd. Mr Irving held the position of precentor for the long period of 40 years.

The recess, now occupied by the organ and known as the Cope Loft, provided very popular seating accommodation, especially among the younger folks, who were regular in their attendance.

C & D Marts (Longtown) Primestock Report Thursday, 8th January 2026

CONTACT NUMBERS:

John Walton	07880 527 066
Daniel Lynn	07584 200 489
Nick Woodmass	07442 246 063
Sam Hogg	07584 207323
Norman Douglas	07786 366 833
Helen Rickard	07741 313 029



C&D Auction Marts had forward a huge entry of 9,040 sheep comprising of 6,113 hogs and 2,927 cast ewes & rams at their weekly sale at Longtown Mart on Thursday 8th January 2026.

PRIME HOGGS

Another substantial show of 6,113 hogs sold to a very competitive ring of purchasers ensuring, 33-45kg Hoggs sold to huge rates of return being the dearest trade of the season.

Heavy hoggs meeting a lot of resistance being harder to cash across the board whilst export weights and smalls proved in serious demand and way short of customer requirements. Commercial export weights regularly trading 360-370ppk with the best hoggs 430ppk plus. Many more handy weighted sheep wanted by customer request.

Top price per head of £225 for Texels from G. Cakebread, Commonsides.

Beltex hoggs topped at 483p per kilo from M. & J. Kennedy, Lurgan.

Please contact your auctioneers for further enquiries.

Overall average 333.5ppk (SQQ 348.9ppk)

Principal prices (Per head)

Texel - £225 Commonsides, £200 Larne Road, £198, £193 Larne Road, £190 Meikle Dykes, £189 Corneyside, £188 Guardsmill & Larne Road, £186 High Parson Bridge, £184 Guards Mill
Beltex - £208 Ballinloan, £196 Lurgan Farm, £194Horsley Hill, £190 Whitriggill, £188 Maryholm, £186 6 Stonehouse,

£185 High Parson Bridge, £184 Whitriggill & Hilton Of Culsh, £183 Ballinloan
Charollais - £190 Maryholm, £163 Tinwald Shaw, £154 Swaites & Down By Rigg, £150 Knowe Farm
Romney - £187, £184 Bowsden Moor
Suffolk - £178 Allfornaught, £176 Drumlea, £171 High Machriemore, £170 Guardsmill & Kilford Croft, £139 Upper Huntley Wood, £168 Brownleazes, Upper Huntley Wood & Drumlea, £166 Allfornaught, £135 Tarrasfoot, £164 Staffer Farming, Kirtlebank & High Machriemore
Mule - £174 Drumlea, £172 Brownleazes, £155 Howtel, £154 Cowburnrigg & Dunjop, £150 Brownleazes, 7 Aldery Terrace, Langholm Farm & Allfornaught
North Country Cheviot - £164 Hilton of Culsh

Cheviot Mule - £163 Uras, £151 Rigghead & Buchtrig, £150 Commonsides, Dunjop & Pilmuir, £149 Marwhirn, Buchtrig & West Millhills, £148 Prieststhaugh & Grindon Hill
Hill Cheviot - £160 Twislehope, £151 West Millhills, £150 West Millhills & Drumreach, £149 Commonsides, £148 Commonsides, Buchtrig & Falnash, £147 Oswie, Commonsides & Maryholm
Dutch Spotted - £154 Kinnelside
Blackface - £150 Whiteside, £149 Cowburnrigg, £148 Craig Douglas, £147 Clonrae, £145 Mouldyhill, £143 Whiteside, £142 Clonrae, Grindon Hill & Craig Douglas, £140 Maryholm & Balliemeanoch

Hampshire - £148 Corncockle
Half Bred - £139 Langdyke, £138 Pilmuir
Kerry Hill - £130 Firs Farm
Swaledale - £129 Devenport Farms, £118 Westerhopeburn
Oxford - £128, £120 Summerhill Road
Ryeland - £122 Donerentin
Dorset - £120 Donerentin
Border Leicester - £120 Whiteside
Roussin - £115 Down By Rigg
Shetland - £111 Corsua Farm

Principal Prices (Per Kilo)

Beltex - 483p, 446.2p Lurgan Farm, 442.6p Ballinloan, 440p, 435.6p Lurgan Farm, 433p 6 Stonehouse, 428.6p Lurgan Farm, 416p Corneyside, 406.9p Lurgan Farm
Texel - 403p, 392p Pilmuir, 388p Corneyside, 383p Tecket, 382.9p Langholm, 382.1p Pilmuir, 382p Marwhirn, 381.1p Oaklands, 376.9p Outertown, 376.3p Moss House, 375.7p Cressfield
Suffolk - 369p Moss House, 366p Devenport Farms, 364.9p Kirkton of Kingoldrum, 362p Red Gap, 359.5p Outertown, 358.1p Coiliamy, 358p Moss House, 357.1p Prieststhaugh, 356.8p Coiliamy
Hill Cheviot - 366p Maryholm, 362.5p Dippen Farm, 362p, 360p, 357.9p, 357.6p Catslackburn, 355p Dippen Farm & Buchtrig
Dutch Spotted - 361.1p Wadley Farm
Cheviot Mule - 358.3p, 357.9p Catslackburn, 355p Marwhirn, 344 Prieststhaugh, 343.9p Marwhirn, 342p

Thomship, 340.9p Pilmuir, 340p Falnash, 337.2p Commonsides, 336p Buchtrig
Blackface - 356p Peela Hill, 351.4p Clonrae, 347p Sorbie, 346.2p Chapel Farm, 344p Maryholm, 343p Catslackburn, 339p Maryholm & Catslackburn, 338.2p Catslackburn, 338p Grindon Hill
Half Bred - 353.8p Pilmuir
Dorset - 353p Donerentin
Charollais - 350p Down by Rigg & Knowe Farm, 341p, 340.5p Knowe Farm
Roussin - 348.5p Down by Rigg
Mule - 347p, 346.2p Devenport Farms, 343p Grindon Hill, 342.5p Langholm Farm, 341p High Cattadale & Gartvaigh, 340p Ralphshield, 338.6p High Cattadale
Oxford - 343p, 337p Summerhill Road
Hampshire - 336.4p Corncockle
Swaledale - 328.6p, 327.8p Westerhopeburn
Shetland - 326p Corsua Farm
Ryeland - 321p Donerentin
Border Leicester - 300p Whiteside
Kerry Hill - 295.5p Firs Farm
North Country Cheviot - 293p Hilton of Culsh
Romney - 292.2p Bowsden Moor

CAST EWES AND RAMS

A smaller show of 3,027 cast ewes and rams were forward. Trade just the same as previous weeks high rates and numbers keenly sought after on a weekly basis to satisfy demand on a weekly basis.

Heavy ewes topped at £350 for Texel ewes from J Elliot, Roxburgh Mains, Kelso.

Light ewes topped at £148 for Blackface ewes from R Millar, High Cattadale, Argyll and for Cheviots shown by A Armour, Whyalla, Glenbar and W & J Brown, Hilton of Culsh, New Deer.

Rams sold to huge rates of return topping at £240 for Blueface Leicester's from J Reed, Knarr, Slaggyford.

Heavy ewes

Texel £350 Roxburgh Mains, £330 Newbigging, £315 Bowsden Moor & Howgillside, £305 Upper Huntley Wood.
Suffolk £235 Howgillside, £232 Roxburgh Mains, £230 Upper Huntley Wood, £222 Pumplaburn, £218 Beckfoot, West Logan & Castlehill.
Charollais £230 Beckfoot, £222 Newton Cottage, £202 Bowsden Moor & Beckfoot.
Blueface Leicester £220 Newbigging, £212 Laverockbank.
Beltex £200, £198 Newton Cottage.
Cheviot Mule £196 Newbigging, £184, £182 Pumplaburn, £182 Upper Huntley Wood.
Mule £218 West Logan, £192 Pumplaburn, £190 Third, £188 Viewfield, £184 West Logan.
North Country Cheviot £185 Smailholm Mains, £182 Beckfoot, £174 Newbigging, £172 Allfornaught.

Light ewes

Blackface £148 High Cattadale, £138 Low Tirfergus, £133 Knockreech, £132 Chapel, £130 Balliemore.
Hill Cheviot £148 Whyalla & Hilton of

Culsh, £136 Balliemore, Chapel & Glendearg, £134 Uras & Glendearg.
Easycare £144, £124 Torkirra, £124, £120 Bairkine.
Shetland £126 Uras.
Swaledale £110 Spoutbank, £97 The Ash & Nunsleugh, £94 Balliemore.

Rams

Bluefaced Leicester £240 Knarr, £232 Clonrae, £228 Brownleazes.
Texel £225, £220 Hilton of Culsh, £215 Twislehope & Beckfoot.
Suffolk £225 Brownleazes, £210 Hilton of Culsh.
Romney £200 Marygate.
Kerry Hill £200 Firs.
Cheviot £195, £180 Bloch, £155 Stooprigg.
Charollais £180 Beckfoot, £175 Cooilingle.
Blackface £175 Craig Douglas, £150 The Row.
North Country Cheviot £175 Buchtrig.
Beltex £175 Mossburnford.

Averages:

Hoggs
Light to 483.0p (336.2p)
Standard to 446.2p (352.8p)
Medium to 435.6 (345.3p)
Heavy to 442.6p (315.6p)

Ewes

Light to £148.00 (£116.41)
Heavy to £350.00 (£172.65)
Rams to £240.00 (£160.87)

The E&L Gallery



A beautiful winter-scape of the Ewes Valley captured by Anne Erskine

CAMERA: iPhone

Special Occasion?.....tell the world!

HAPPY 60TH! GEORGE
with love from
A, J, K & P

JENKINS
Kaye and Stephen are proud to announce the arrival of their first child
OWEN JAMES
Born on 1st March 2025
first grandchild for Jean & Steve and Carol and Tony. Special thanks to all concerned.

L
Congratulations **ANDREW BROWN** on passing your driving test at last!!
love from Mum & Dad

Happy Ruby Anniversary
Congratulations to **JEAN & JOE JAMIESON** married in Eskdalemuir Church 14th April 1985
love from all the family

Let us know if you have something to celebrate.....
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.....anything really!

Both families are delighted to announce the engagement of **CARLA JONES & JOHN DEANS** on 1st March 2025
here's wishing you both all the love and luck in the world!

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PUBLIC NOTICES

PLANNING

The applications, associated plans and documents can be viewed on-line by following the ePlanning link on the Council's website at www.dumfriesandgalloway.gov.uk/planning. Written comments may be made to Head of Economy and Development by email to Planning@dumgal.gov.uk or via the Council's website, as noted above, by 29/1/26 (Type A)

Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 as amended
Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure)
(Scotland) Regulations 2013, Reg 20(1) (A)

Ref No/Type Address/Proposal
25/2250/FUL (A) Land East Of Black Esk Water Treatment Works, B723,
Boreland House, Boreland - Formation of temporary
access onto B723 public road and associated track
and erection of temporary screen fence

Dumfries
and Galloway

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E&L JOB SPOT

the Buccleuch Centre
LANGHOLM

Vacancy – Part Time Theatre/Admin Assistant

Located in Langholm, the Buccleuch Centre is a thriving small theatre and event venue, promoting arts & entertainment in southern Scotland. We are now looking for a part time Theatre/Administration Assistant to join our team, with a 'can do' attitude.

In this role you will assist the management team in the day to day running of the Buccleuch Centre. Tasks will include invoicing, monitoring and update of our supporters' database. Stock control and ordering of coffee shop, bar and sundry supplies as required by the Centre.

Additionally, you will manage the Studio diary and accounts and assist the management team in the organisation and smooth running of day to day tasks and local events and shows. A good customer service background would also be desirable, either face to face or over the telephone.

You will have excellent time management skills, be 100% reliable, flexible, and adaptable with the ability to multi task.

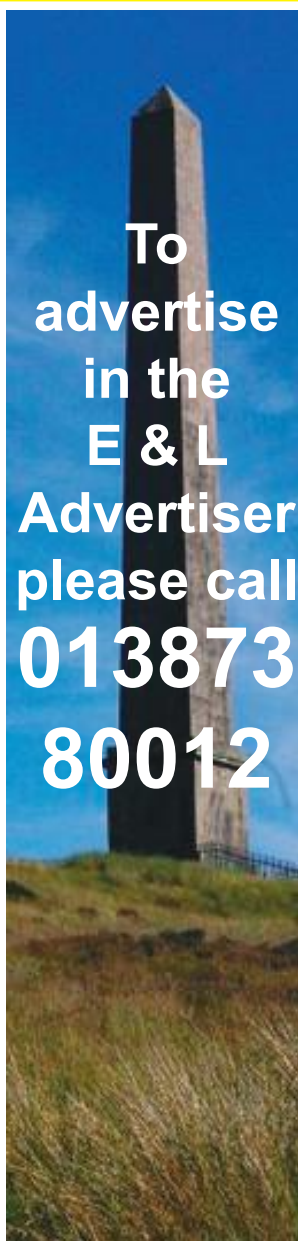
You will be self-motivated and be able to work independently or as part of a team.

The post requires a minimum of 2 years' experience of working in a busy office environment, together with a good working knowledge of Microsoft Word, Outlook and Office. Experience of cash handling is desirable.

This is a part time role of circa 21 hours per week (which includes 3 hours funded) to be worked flexibly and includes occasional evenings and weekends. The role will be based in Langholm.

Further details are available by emailing Michele Lowe
(michele.lowe@buccleuchcentre.com)

Applications by CV & covering letter to be submitted by Sunday 18th January
The Buccleuch Centre, Buccleuch Square, Langholm, DG13 0AW



LOCAL NOTICEBOARD



WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK
W/C 19th Jan 2025

Mon	Quilters Group	10-1	Creation Mill, DG13 0ES
	Mending Monday	1-3	
	Sewing Machines for Beginners	2-3:30	
Tues	Langholm Evening In Stitches	6-8	Creation Mill, DG13 0ES
	After School Club	4-5:30	
Wed	Welcome Wednesday	10-3	Creation Mill, DG13 0ES
Fri	Langholm weekly In Stitches	1-4	Creation Mill, DG13 0ES
Sat	Creation Club P2-P7	10-1	Creation Mill, DG13 0ES

Scrap Store is open Monday - Friday 10-3

Booking required, please visit
CREATIONMILL.ORG/EVENTS

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WHAT'S ON IN JANUARY

Fri 16th	RSNO A Viennese Gala	The Buccleuch Centre 7.30pm
Sat 17th	Benty Burns Supper	Benty Hall 7 for 7.30pm
Mon 19th	Langholm Dementia Café	Langholm Day Centre 1.30-3.30pm
Wed 21st	Hard of Hearing Group	Langholm Day Centre 1pm - 3pm
Sat 24th	Muckle Toon Community Burns Supper	The Buccleuch Centre 7pm - Entry Free
	Celebrate Rabbie Burns	Eskdalemuir Hub 7pm
Fri 30th	Gilnockie 100th Anniversary Burns Supper	Gilnockie Hall 7 for 7.30pm
Sat 31st	Canonbie United Parish Church Soup Kitchen and Table Top Sale	Canonbie Public Hall 11am - 1.30pm

The E&L General Knowledge Quiz

No. 2601 answers next week

- Who led the English troops at the Battle of Culloden?
- Against which English king did James IV declare war in 1513?
- Where was the Cutty Sark built?
- Which football club from the west of Scotland was founded in 1868?
- Which castle in East Lothian has a distinctive round tower?
- In which Scott novel will you encounter the Laird of Dumbiedykes?
- What was manufactured by J & P Coates?
- Which battle was fought in 1513?
- What kind of agricultural machine was invented by Patrick Bell?
- Which Scottish king was killed at the Battle of Alnwick?
- What was the profession of James Kier?
- Which party did Jim Sillars represent as an MP?
- Which Scottish footballer and manager published an autobiography entitled No Half Measures?
- In which month is St Serf's Day?
- Name the Scottish group whose variation of Love is All Around featured in Four Weddings and a Funeral.
- Where is the oldest Post Office in Britain?
- Whose name is associated with Maxwellton?
- Which novel by Robert Louis Stevenson features Alan Breck?
- Who was world champion motor racing driver in 1969?
- Where are the most famous Highland Games held each year, attended by the Royal Family?



Crossword & Quiz Solutions from last week

Quiz 2601

- Same home town (Auctermuchty)
- Raasay
- The Clyde
- 1989
- The Forties Field
- The Chambers Encyclopaedia
- Weavers, at Fenwick, Ayrshire
- David Muirhead Bone
- The Blue Blanket
- The New York Herald
- The West Coast train (ia Carlisle and Glasgow)
- Three
- The Great Upper Clyde Shipbuilders
- Sir Arthur Conan Doyle
- John Faed
- A breech-loading rifle
- Wood
- Newton Stewart
- "til May be oot"
- Mary King's Close

Crossword 2601

Across: 7 Tentacle, 8 Ills, 9 Tartan, 10 Metric, 11 Send up, 13 Corner, 14 Per, 15 Nieces, 17 Oppose, 19 Odessa, 21 Karate, 23 Mayo, 24 Maryland.

Down: 1 Behave, 2 Stet, 3 Schnapps, 4 Ream, 5 Gift wrap, 6 Alpine, 12 Decision, 13 Crockery, 16 Indian, 18 Satiny, 20 Arms, 22 Rule.

NEVER A CROSSWORD!

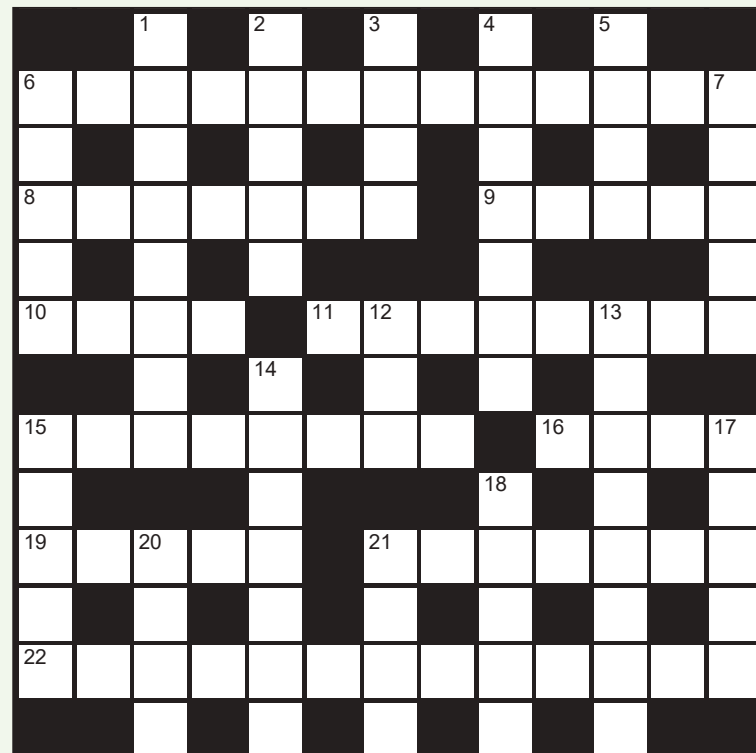
No. 2601 answers next week

Across

- Manet or Monet (13)
- Nobility (7)
- Jewish teacher (5)
- Hint about not being obese (4)
- Substantial (8)
- North Sea oil port (8)
- Kind of farm (4)
- Worth (5)
- Pancake-like bread of India (7)
- Spiritless (13)

Down

- Desire for food (8)
- What avengers do (5)
- Sea-girt land (4)
- Make right (7)
- Member (4)
- Computer feed (5)
- Brief moment (5)
- What the clock struck to scare away the mouse (3)
- Mesmerize (8)
- Abdominal gland (7)
- Smith's block (5)
- Seed planter (5)
- Effervescent (5)
- Gambler's asset (4)
- Crushed taco on the outside (4)





Weather puts paid to rugby across Scotland

Rugby

With no home matches since 22nd November when Langholm beat Ross High 47-21, the resumption of rugby after the Christmas break was eagerly anticipated at Milntown. With the match on 10th January being a home fixture against North Berwick RFC, everything was prepared to see a good crowd back at Milntown. However, the elements conspired to freeze off the match and leave another blank weekend of rugby, something repeated right across Scotland.

The very low temperatures at the beginning of last week dropping as low as -9c froze both the pitches solid. Then on Tuesday came heavy rain which waterlogged the pitches and then froze resulting in large patches of thick ice lying on top of the frozen surface. Although the frosts midweek were not as severe, there was no let-up in the subzero temperatures at night as by Friday it was clear that no thaw was likely. The match was therefore postponed. As yet no date for the rescheduled match has been announced.

This Saturday sees Langholm back on the road with a fixture against

Portobello RFC at Cavalry Park.

In October, Langholm beat Portobello at Milntown 59-12, but Porty can be a difficult team to beat at home so nothing should be taken for granted.

Langholm currently lie in fourth place on 31 points having played nine matches. They are just two points behind Murrayfield Wands who have played 11. Current league leaders are Dunbar RFC with Haddington RFC in second place.

The next home match at Milntown is due on 24th January against Haddington which is likely to be an interesting and tough encounter. A big support would be appreciated. Kick off 2pm



Just one of the many patches of solid ice lying on Milntown

Lindean away for carpet bowlers

Bowling



On Saturday 3rd January at Lindean Carpet Bowling Club, Ian and Matt Hall (c) won this year's Bruce Jeffrey Memorial pairs tournament held at Lindean village hall near Selkirk. Well done to Luke Tolson and Ryan Wood who were runners up. The beaten semi-finalists were Aaron Wood & Ryan Johnstone and Bill Hedley & John Hogarth. Thank you to all 32 entries and everyone who came along to support the tournament and helped out on the night!

Football Nostalgia

June 1989

In June 1989 Boys of Langholm Junior Football Club were presented with their trophies in Th'Auld Acquaintance Restaurant.

In the Under-16 age group Calum Graham won all the trophies, being presented by John Hammond, managing director of BFA.

In the Under-14 group, for indoor points, a competition which was run all winter by Billy Scott, Alistair Henderson and Bob Ritchie. The winners were: Highest points and Players' player - Barry Henderson;

2nd Robert Wallace; 3rd David Johnstone.

L to r: Front row: Brian Johnson, Nicky Rodger, Gary Brannan, unknown.

Second row: Keith Armstrong, Stuart Graham, Gregor Park, Robert Wallace, Andrew Porteous, Alec Jarzyna and Kenny Winter.

Third row: David Johnson, Taylor Corrie, John Reid, Bob Ritchie and Nicky Dunn.

Back row: Barry Henderson, John Hammond, Calum Graham



E&L SPORT

